



AB 246

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

**MICHAEL J. SHERIDAN**  
**STATE REPRESENTATIVE**

**Testimony on Assembly Bill 246**  
**Assembly Committee on State Affairs**

Tuesday, May 29, 2007  
328 Northwest, State Capitol

Thank you, Chairman Van Roy and Committee Members, for holding this public hearing on Assembly Bill 246. I appreciate this opportunity.

Late last session, I was contacted by a former constituent who is serving in the U.S. Marine Corps. While visiting his family in Janesville, he went to a local grocery store to purchase some alcohol. Even though he was old enough to purchase alcohol in Wisconsin, according to the grocery store's understanding of current Wisconsin law, the only form of valid identification for the purchase of alcohol is an ID issued by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation issued under Chapter 343 of the Statutes. Since the marine only had a military ID, he was told that Wisconsin law prohibited the grocery store from selling him alcohol.

In talking to the Department of Revenue and the department's alcohol enforcement staff, current Wisconsin law does allow businesses to accept other forms of identification. However, as businesses have become better at preventing sales of alcohol to minors, some confusion has been generated about the limitations of Section 125.085 of the Statutes.

*Summary of Bill* { AB 246 makes it clear that, in addition to state-issued identification, military identification that includes the holder's photograph and date of birth is valid for the purchase of alcohol in Wisconsin. AB 246 also includes valid U.S. passports as an acceptable form of identification. In addition, AB 246 makes it clear that businesses may choose to accept other forms of identification such as driver's licenses from other states. AB 246 also specifies that businesses do not have to accept any form of identification that does not appear to be valid or authentic or appears to be altered.

Since military IDs and U.S. passports are just as secure, if not more so, as state-issued identification, I told the marine that I would pursue this issue with legislation. Having brought this issue forward, I am happy to accept any changes that may be offered by this committee.

Thank you again for the opportunity to speak here today. I am happy to answer any questions you might have.